19 SEP 1938

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937

To the Members of the Bala Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1937.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	659 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1937	1502
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to rate books	434
Rateable value	£ 6462
Sum represented by a penny rate	£24 18 11

Vital Statistics—

		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births	Legitimate	7	7	14
	Illegitimate	1	1	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population... 10.65.

	M.	F.	Total.
Still Births (Legit.)	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 total births ... ... 58.82.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	8	11	19

General Death Rate ... ... 12.65.

Comparability Factor	.81.
Deaths from Puerberal Causes	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS FOR THE AREA DURING THE YEAR.

Acute and Chronic Nephritis...	0	1
Celebral Haemorrhage	0	2
Heart Disease	3	1
Other Circulatory Diseases...	2	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	1	0
Cancer	0	3
Other Defined Diseases	2	1
Total	8	11

Death rate per 1000 of Population from—

Chronic Nephritis	0.67.
Cardio Vascular Diseases...	5.99.
Cancer	1.9.
Tuberculosis	0.67.

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers—

M.O.H. (part-time)—Robt. Jones, M.B., C.h.B.
Sanitary Inspector (part-time)—D. R. Roberts.

There were no changes in any of the following :—

(a) Laboratory Facilities.
(b) Ambulance Facilities.
(c) Nursing in the Home.
(d) Hospital Facilities.

The various Clinics available for consultations are :—

(a) Tuberculosis (King Edwards VII. Welsh National Memorial).

(b) Infant Welfare.

(c) Orthopaedic (For children the County Council Scheme). For older persons the Merioneth Voluntary Orthopaedic Association.

(d) Ante Natal (County Scheme).

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water—

Two separate reports were obtained on the lead solvency of the supply from Arenig Lake, both of which indicated that the water was strongly plumbo-solvent. This makes it imperative that lead pipes for domestic purposes be in future prohibited, and that existing lead pipes be replaced.

There is, however, no evidence of suspected lead poisoning having occured in the past. Sanction was obtained from the Ministry of Health for a loan of £2,674 for the purpose of enlarging the storage to 120,000 gallons and for renovating the pipe-line, etc. The present system has given good service for close on 50 years.

The quality of the water is good and the supply abundant even in the dryest seasons.

Drainage of Sewerage Pollution.

Detailed consideration was given during the year to the question of sewerage, especially in its relation to pollution.

The existing sewers convey slop waters and road surface waters only which are discharged untreated into Bala Lake and the River Dee.

Water closets discharge into cesspools which are not connected with the sewers.

Four schemes are under consideration.

(1) Construction of purification plants at Cae Mawr and at Parkiau meadows to treat existing sewerage.

(2) Construction of one plant at Parkiau to deal with all the sewage from both ends of the town.

(3) To construct overflows from cesspools to existing sewers and treating the sewerage at Parkiau.

(4) To construct new sewers altogether to take all sewerage and do away with cesspools.

The last three schemes would involve the construction and maintenance of one or two pumping stations as the gradient from the south west end of the town to Parkiau is too small.

The least expensive scheme is No. (1), but it is felt that in view of the satisfactory working of the present cesspool system the benefit to the town would be nil.

The advantages of No. (2) is that it would do away with the present sewer that discharges into the lake and there would be no objectionable purification plant at a much frequented spot near the lake side.

As for No. (3) scheme it is very doubtful whether existing sewers are suitable for receiving cesspool contents.

The whole problem is complicated by the deficient gradient in the district.

The sewerage of the extended area of the town must form an integral part of any new scheme, and the whole problem must be attacked on a broad basis with a view to future requirements.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There were no changes in arrangements for public scavenging.

The open carts used for collecting refuse should be replaced by modern enclosed vehicles.

The public should also be reminded that it is both sanitary and economic to burn all combustible refuse in kitchen grates.

SCHOOLS.

There were no changes in the sanitary arrangements and no serious epidemics occurred amongst school children during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Total number of formal notices issued...	4
Number complied with...	4
Total number of informal notices issued...	140
Number complied with...	140

Total number of new houses completed :—

(a) By Local Sanitary Authority...	12
(b) By Private Enterprise...	8
Number of Plans, new houses, buildings, etc.... ...	18 (approx.)
Visits to Bakehouses...	20
Number of notices re defects...	3
Visits to Cowsheds...	200
Number of notices re defects...	13
Visits to Dairies...	12
Number of notices re defects...	4
Visits to Slaughterhouses...	190
Number of notices re defects...	20
Notices re removal of ashes...	16
Notices re removal of manure...	28
Notices re defective drains...	30
Number of visits to cases of Infectious Diseases ...z	6
Number of houses disinfected...	p6
Notices of defective water fittings...	36
Number of pail closets converted to W.C....	2
Number of new water closets erected...	24
Total number of water closets...	446
Pail closets...	9
Privy middens, etc....	4
Number serving more than one house...	14

D.—HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	32
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	50
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	30
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	18
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	12

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.*—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... 6

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners... 6

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners... 6

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... 0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... 0

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... 0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year... 14

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein... 14

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein... 77

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... 0

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... 4

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 26

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... 0

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—

There are 14 registered dealers in the town. Their dairies and cowhouses are regularly inspected.

12 samples of milk were sent by the County Council for analysis.

(b) Meat and other Foods.—

Meat shops, slaughterhouses and bakehouses were regularly inspected by the Sanitary Officers. No laboratory examinations were made and no carcases or parts of carcases were condemned for tuberculosis or other diseases.

The following figures give approximately the number of animals slaughtered :—

Number of	cows slaughtered	136
,,	Sheep and lambs...	1620
,,	Pigs...	70
,,	Calves	0

F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no changes in Laboratory arrangements for facilitating the diagnosis of or treatment of infectious diseases.

The cases notified are summarised in the following table :—

Disease.	*Total cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total deaths.*
Scarlet Fever...	2 {5 yrs. 7 yrs.	0	0
Diphtheria...	1. 18 yrs.	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1937 :—

Age Periods.	*New Cases.*				*Deaths.*			
	Respiratory.		*Non-respiratory.*		*Respiratory.*		*Non-respiratory.*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—								
5—								
15—								
25—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
35—								
45—	—	1						
55—								
65 upwards								
Totals	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

All the deaths from tuberculosis were certified, and there is no evidence of neglect of notification.

I beg to express my thanks to the County M.O.H., the Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk and Members of the Council for their co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT JONES.

"Cyfnod" Office, Bala.